MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information required by the member is given below:—

Year.	*Amount.*
	Rs.
1099 ...	... 1,27,123
1100 ...	... 1,56,675
1101 ...	... 1,42,202

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): From the answer, it is seen that the income tax collected from merchants during 1101 has fallen. May I know from the member whether the Government attempted to enquire into the causes that led to that fall?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information is not now before the Government.

License for the Sale of Fish, Laurel Oil and Cocoanut Oil.

31. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*):

(1) Are the Government aware that, on the representation of the merchants of Shencotta, Dewan Bahadur Mr. M. Krishnan Nair, the then Dewan of Travancore, ordered that the trade in fish, laurel oil and cocoanut oil be conducted without obtaining any license therefor from the Excise Department?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether those orders are being carried out at present?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The answer is in the negative.

(2) In view of the answer to part (1), this question does not arise.

Indebtedness of the Travancore Ryots and the grant of Agricultural Loans.

32. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*):

(1) Will the Government be pleased to state how agricultural indebtedness in Travancore stands in relation to such indebtedness in the Madras Presidency?

(2) Are the Government aware that the loans given through co-operative societies, being only of short duration, do not serve the purpose of redeeming the prior accumulated indebtedness of the agriculturists?

(3) Are the Government aware that, in the several Provinces of British India and in Indian States, the Governments have organised and are organising Land Mortgage Banks with the object of enabling the agriculturists to redeem themselves from agricultural indebtedness?

(4) Will they be pleased to take urgent steps to organise Land Mortgage Banks in Travancore for the same purpose?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The Government have no information.

(2) The Government incline to the view that the existing co-operative societies are able to relieve agricultural indebtedness to an

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appreciable extent. Statistics for 1101 show that, of the 1,280 societies working at the end of 1101, as many as 1,061 were agricultural credit societies; moreover, loans for the redemption of prior debts formed more than a quarter of the loans issued during the year, and large amounts were disbursed, besides, for agricultural objects such as cultivation expenses, purchase of cattle, permanent improvements to land, etc. There is also nothing to prevent co-operative societies granting loans for longer periods than at present by suitable modifications in the bye-laws.

(3) The Government understand that a few Land Mortgage Banks have been established in the Punjab and in the Madras Presidency.

(4) A deputation from the Travancore Co-operative Union, Ltd., No. 777, which included the member, was received by the Dewan on the 6th June 1927, on the question of establishing a Land Mortgage Bank in this State. The deputation was not able to convince the Government that the existing agencies working in the field of co-operation were unable to function in the directions aimed at by the promoters of the scheme and has been asked to explore the possibility of avoiding duplication of machinery and to approach the Government later on, if necessary, with fuller data for the reconsideration of the question.

Increase of Pay to Police Constables.

33. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*):

(1) Are the Government aware that the brunt of the police work is borne more by the constabulary than by others in the Police Department?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state the pay drawn by the constables in the Madras Presidency as well as that drawn by those in the sister State of Cochin?

(3) Is it a fact that most constables resort to illegal gratification?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of raising the pay of the constables to the level of that which is now being drawn in the Madras Presidency or Cochin?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) In certain situations, the brunt of the work will fall upon individual constables until such time as their superior officers are able to take over the responsibility. The work of constables is, however, largely mechanical and as a general rule they do not bear the brunt of decisive action.

(2) The latest figures available here show that the minimum pay of a constable in the Madras Presidency is Rs. 16½ while in the State of Cochin the minimum pay of a constable is Rs.12; the maximum is Rs. 15 and the average is Rs. 12½.

(3) The Government have no information.

(4) The question is being examined.

Increase of Pay to Anchal Delivery Peons.

34. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*):

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the work of the delivery

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